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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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6 September, 2001

Daron Haddock, Permit Supervisor
Mined Land Reclamation Program
Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
Box 145801
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Incoming
C/007/038
Copy Daron fwd ✓
Mike

Dear Daron:

We were recently contacted by Willow Creek Mine regarding water quality monitoring required by your agency at various locations in the Willow Creek drainage. The mine pointed out that, while monitoring of dissolved oxygen and pH levels is generally important to determine any effects of mining on water quality and potential effects on aquatic wildlife resources, there may be locations where monitoring is not necessary or could be relocated to a more easily accessed site.

A cooperative visual/electrofishing survey of the lowermost 2 miles of Mathis Creek was performed on July 2, 2001 by our agency and the mine. No fish were found. Low flows, and the noted presence of barriers to upstream fish migration, make it extremely unlikely that any fish occur farther upstream. The mine noted that because mining is occurring nearly 2000 feet beneath Mathis Creek, there could be no mining-related impacts to water quality in the upper reaches of the stream. We agree with that assertion.

We recommend, as requested by the mine, that water quality monitoring not be required in upper Mathis Creek. However, any required flow monitoring should continue. Dissolved oxygen and pH monitoring in Mathis Creek can be limited to the bottom of the stream, just before it enters Willow Creek. Any water quality impacts should be observable at that location.

There may be other locations where similar changes can be made to make monitoring easier for the mine. We would be happy to respond to any such requests that the mine makes.

Sincerely,

Kevin Christopherson
Regional Supervisor

cc: Johnny Pappas, Willow Creek Mine